

Terrace Maintenance

Oklahoma Job Sheet - ENG-OK-1



USDA Soil Conservation Service
Stillwater, Oklahoma



Construction is only the initial stage of terracing. The success of the terraces depends on the way the terraces are farmed and maintained.

Good maintenance and farming practices include:

1. Using contour and other proper tillage methods.
2. Maintaining terraces as necessary to prevent over topping and breaks during heavy rains. For most terraces this will require a 0.7 feet ridge height.
3. Plowing towards the center of the terrace ridge. If extra height is needed, lap the furrows on the ridge. If extra width is needed, do not lap the furrows.
4. Removing silt blocks in the channel to avoid ponding and maintaining channel capacity.
5. Varying location of the dead furrow between terraces, but leaving a dead furrow in the channel often enough to maintain channel capacity. Proper channel capacity is necessary to prevent terrace over topping.
6. If breaks occur, repairing them promptly.
7. Maintaining end blocks on level terraces.
8. Keeping outlet ends of graded terraces open. Excessive grade or overfalls developing at the outlet will require shaping, vegetating, or other stabilization practices.

Assistance with terrace maintenance is available from local Soil Conservation Service offices. Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

September 1991